(b) the stages of progress of such exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Exploration for oil is taking place in nine exploration blocks in Tamil Nadu. The details are as under:

Blocks	District(s)
1. CY-ONN-2003/1	Thanjavur
2. CY-ONN-2002/1	Cuddalore
3. CY-ONN-2002/2	Nagapattinam & Cuddalore.
4. L-1	Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Tiruvarur & Tanjore.
5. L-1 Extn.	Nagapattinam
6. L-11	Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Tanjore & Pudukkottai
7. L-X	Ramanathapuram
8. L-XI	Cuddalore
9. L-XII	Ramanathapuram

(b) As on 1.4.2006, continued exploratory efforts have led to acquisition of 40823.3 Ground Line Kilometres (GLK) of 2D seismic and 3282.3 sq. km of 3D seismic data and drilling of 432 exploratory wells. These exploratory efforts have resulted in the discovery of 26 hydrocarbon finds and established 123.27 Million Metric Tons of (O+OEG) in place hydrocarbons.

Guidelines on new LPG connections

2694. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the district administration has any role in the release of new LPG connections to the consumers in any part of the country;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued by the district administration in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the district administration is pressuring the IOC not to release second connection for a family in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the IOC is bound to follow any such guidelines of district administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In some States, the State Government/District Administration are issuing instructions/ guidelines regarding release of LPG connections and the Oil Marketing Companies have been following the same. Such instructions *inter alia* include release of new connections on production of ration card, complying with rules falling under trading licence issued by the State Governments, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Taxes and duties on petroleum products

2695. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government appointed Rangarajan Committee report on petroleum products, does show any discrepancy in the taxes and duties levied in India and the other countries of the Sub-Continent; and

(b) if so, what are the ameliorative measures to fix that problem and thus avoid the escalation in the costs of transport and inputs (High Speed Diesel) in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The composition of taxes in the retail selling price of Petrol & Diesel in India and the neighbouring countries as given in the Dr. Rangarajan Committee report on pricing & taxation of petroleum products in the sub-continent are as under:

Country	Petrol	Diesel
India	55%	34%
Pakistan	42%	20%
Nepal	31%	22%
Bangladesh	24%	24%
Sri Lanka	37%	5%

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